

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chris Varady, President.

OPENING PRAYER: Jesus, our friend and our brother, please guide us with your wisdom and love today. Help us to do your will and to be open to hear your voice as we speak and listen to one another. Amen.

PRESIDENT REPORT- Chris Varady

- Saints Spotlight. SAPA will continue to manage. Please send ideas for videos. This month's theme: Thankful November—thanking our sponsors.
- We will need a new chair for the Halloween float. A budget will need established; it was suggested \$300 candy, \$300 supplies.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT- Joy Stanton

- Cash Bash sales will begin in January. Mel Bechtold will print the tickets. The idea was brought forward to sell sponsors on the back of the tickets.

SECRETARY REPORT- Ashley Lack

- Approval of Minutes from the October 1, 2025 meeting
 - A motion was made by Mark Terry and seconded by Chris Varady to approve the Minutes as previously distributed.

TREASURER REPORT- Mark Terry

- No Treasurer report. Due to personal/work commitments, Mark will be stepping down as Treasurer.
 - A motion was made by Ashley Lack and seconded by Joy Stanton to reinstate Susan Kasten as Treasurer
- No official treasurer's report this month but Susan reports the checking account balance is around \$23, 600; Expenses for October were Football Raffle payouts and Income was for Trivia Night sponsors/table registrations.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT- Marli Nixon reporting for Tenisha Phelps & Marli Nixon

- Rosewood Cafe—OLQP pre-made lattes. Sell with Krispy Creme at drop off. \$6 cost, sell them for \$8.
- Gorilla carwash Alton Athletic Assoc. Fundraiser
- Renew billboard-info in SAPA email \$3000
- Digital flyer for open house Feb 1
- If you chair an event, please submit them to sapa@stambrosegodfrey.org and photos@stambrosegodfrey.org

St. Ambrose Parents' Association
SAPA Meeting: November 5, 2025
Location: St. Ambrose Community Center

- Videos live on St. Ambrose You Tube Channel
- Create an event on Facebook for each event to increase awareness

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES REPORT- Kylie Gregory

- Completed Events:
 - **Alton City-wide Litter Clean Up**
 - Chair: Ashley Lack
 - **MAP Testing Snacks**
 - Thank you Sue Stirnaman for the donation for snacks!
 - **Dine to Donate: Bakers & Hale**
 - Chair: Natalie Gordon
 - Profit almost \$1200
 - Thank you Natalie Gordon for coordinating this event!
 - **Halloween Parade**
 - Chairs: Amy & Brad Watts
 - Date: October 31, 2025
 - Thank you for creating the float for St. Ambrose the last 10 years!
 - Best turnout we've had in recent years.
- Upcoming Events:
 - **Grandparents' Day**
 - Chair: Peggy Kory
 - Date: November 7, 2025
 - Thank you Peggy Kory for chairing the event! Thank you to the following people who are helping make this a successful event: Father Steve, Deacon Jay, Deacon Bill, Steve Stack, Mr. Baird, Emily Kribs & Jean Connoyer, Pat Jun, Mary Jo Zykan, Mel Bechtold, The Teachers, Kim Wackerly, Mrs. Preston, Eli Hawkins and all the Parent Volunteers who will help with set up & at the event
 - **Trivia Night**
 - Chair: Jason Lack
 - Date: Saturday, November 8, 2025
 - Theme: Christmas
 - Location: St. Ambrose School Gym
 - Bring your own snacks & drinks (spirits allowed!)
 - Sponsors and Volunteers are needed!
 - There's still time to register your table; you can register online or show up that night to get a spot!
 - All the info here: <https://www.saintambroseparish.org/trivia>
 - **Cardinals Calendars**
 - Chair: Paige Dawdy
 - Order forms/money due on 12/4/25
 - <https://forms.gle/36vYtxBGvQBo8kV39>
 - **St. Ambrose Community Christmas/Toys for Tots Drive**
 - Chair: Susan Kasten

St. Ambrose Parents' Association
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- Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025
- Time: 12:00p-3:00p
- Location: Krueger's Orchard
- Donation boxes are in the church by the entrances and a donation box will be in the school soon.
- **Family Movie Night**
 - Chair: Chris Varady
 - Date: Friday, December 12, 2025
 - Movie: The Grinch (2018 animated film)
 - The Grinch will be making an appearance!
 - Flyer coming soon
 - 4 volunteers needed-link coming soon
- **Christmas Feast**
 - Chairs: Lauren Hoefert & Sue Stirnman
 - Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025
 - Julia's quote was \$7.00/student; other quotes are being obtained.
 - Women's Group will let us borrow their decorations
 - Will need help decorating the day before and volunteers to serve the meal
 - Cupcakes for all students will be donated by Sue Stirnman.
- **Scholastic Book Fair**
 - Chair: Joy Stanton
 - Dates: May 1-5
- **Football**
 - Chair: Matt Bechtold
- **Spiritwear**
 - Status Update: October's 10% return to the school will be around \$100
 - Black Friday Sale coming

DEACON JAY'S REPORT- Jay Wackerly

- Masses are recorded so only friends of Aurelius Ambrose can see the Mass live. Mel is looking into posting Mass videos on our YouTube channel because the solution to the stream link for non-Facebook users has not been found.
- Working on the 2025 Stewardship report. Sent out 37 sections of last year's report to the ministry team leaders requesting updates by the 19th of November.
- Veterans Day service at School chapel time on the 11th.
- The Pastoral Center sound is working.
- Provided Justin Johnson contact information with our sister Parish for Spanish class. Mission International is planning a trip to sister parishes next summer.
- SE/CMG – Safe Environment
 - Church has 145 (-1) Active users with 0 action needed.

St. Ambrose Parents' Association
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- St. Ambrose School 112 (+1) Active users with 12 (-2) Action Needed.
- Father Steve will be out of town Nov 12-25
- Fair Trade sale will be this weekend after all Masses

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT- Bob Baird

MAP Test Results

During the week of October 20, St. Ambrose classes (3-8 grade) completed MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) standardized testing. The testing focused on four areas; Language Usage, Reading, Math, and Science. Individual results were shared with parents and if you did not receive results for your student(s), please contact their homeroom teacher. Based on the individual results, our Fall testing appeared to be very successful, but we will have to wait until December when group results are released for a full and detailed comparison.

Playground Upgrades

We are exploring renovating our playground space, including looking at the possibility of installing field turf in the grass field. A list of recommended installers was provided by Dave McClintock, parishioner and Director of Building and Grounds for the Alton School District.

Kim Wackerly - Dean of Curriculum and Instruction

We are so pleased to welcome Kim Wackerly back to our administrative team in an official capacity. Kim will serve as our Dean of Curriculum and Instruction and will continue working with different tasks, including MAP testing, Faith Family activity coordination, Catholic Schools Week, planning, and aiding in curriculum and instruction adjustments.

Religion Curriculum to be Updated

Recently the Education team in our Catholic Education Office for the Diocese of Springfield announced that there are now four recommended Religion curriculums. Fr. Steve and our Deacons, along with our Catechists will review the four options and decide which to implement for the 2026-2027 school year.

St. Ambrose Catholic School Seeks Custodian

Our school is in need of an individual to work as a school custodian. The work would be completed after school hours into the evening. The position would begin as soon as possible. If interested, please contact Fr. Steve or Principal, Mr. Baird, at rbaird@stambrosegodfrey.org

St. Ambrose Seeks Lawn Care Employee

St. Ambrose is in need of an individual to assume responsibility for regularly cutting grass and weed eating. The position begins in the Spring once the growing season resumes and the grass begins growing again. The individual would be trained on use of our riding lawn mower and lawn equipment and the hours would vary depending on the time of year and the speed at which the grass grows. If interested, please contact Fr. Steve or Mr. Baird asap.

Alton Foundation Grant

We receive \$3000-\$6000 twice a year. Applications are due in May and November. Funds will be used for recurring needs expenses. May application: reading leveler Star Online. November application: Science curriculum costs for the Nancy Larson series used by grades K-5. This series costs around \$9000/year.

NEW BUSINESS

- Joy Stanton will send a reminder email to teacher to update their Amazon Wish Lists ahead of the holiday season. If any Wish List links need updated, please send to SAPA

St. Ambrose Parents' Association

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attn: Mark Terry and he will update the QR codes on the flyer.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION- Open Forum

- No additional questions were raised.

CLOSING PRAYER: We give you thanks, Lord, for helping us to learn more and how to love one another. Please help us to always be instruments of your perfect peace in our school. Amen.

With no further questions/discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m. by Chris Varady, President.

Next meeting: December 3, 2025

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Lack, Secretary

THANK YOU TO OUR SAINT SPONSORS!

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